THE GENESEE FARMER.

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THE GENESEE FARMER.

SATURDAY, JULY 4, 1835.

Postmasters

Will confer a favor by returning to us any numbers of the Genesee Farmer remaining in their offices, addressed to persons who do not call for them.

No. 22.

About twenty copies of No. 22 were sent by mistake to subscribers instead of No. 23. Subscribers who have two copies of the former number, will please return one of them, that we may send them the latter.

Exchange Papers.

We are daily receiving requests to exchange, and had we complied with all the solicitations we believe our exchange would have been larger than our subscription list. We have, however, kept adding to the number of our exchange papers, until we find ourselves under the necessity of largely reducing them. Those, therefore, who do not, after the present number, receive the Farmer, will consider the exchange as stopped.

Remarks of a Traveler.

(CONTINUED.)

Thorn Hedges.

"Since my remarks on thorn hedges were written, I have paid a second visit to the venerable author of "The Pennsylvania Farmer," who early engaged in hedging, and whose fields are bordered and effectually protected in this manner to an extent of two miles. He informed me (and the statement has since been confirmed by others) that the Washington thorn near Philadelphia, has been greatly damaged, if not ruined, by an insect that attacks it near the root. No fact of this kind appeared to be known to those persons with whom I conversed in Chester county; and it is of some importance that my unqualified commendation of that shrub should be abated. Almost every leaf that I noticed at *Wood Lawn* was spotted with yellow,—not like those spots that *embellish* the leaves of the Gold Dust Tree, (*Aucuba japonica*,)—but which appears to be caused by either Fungi or insects. I did not understand that the leaves fell in consequence, but the vigor of the plants must be more or less impaired. I saw nothing of the kind on the south-west side of the Schuylkill.

"At this time, although the chief part of his hedges are of the sort just noticed, yet the New Castle thorn is by him decidedly preferred. It is much disposed to throw out horizontal branches; and some cultivators have considered it difficult to train or *lay*, but my worthy friend made no complaint on this account, and pointed out to me some formidable hedges of this thorn. No dangerous insect is known to attack it; and its fine glossy leaves are unstained, while its neighbor from the Potowmac, at the distance of only a few feet, is marred and discolored.

"The seeds of the New Castle thorn, require a preparation of eighteen months before they germinate. J. R. mixes them with sand, and places the mass in a shallow pit, under the north eaves of a building which chiefly excludes the direct rays of the sun, while every shower supplies it with moisture. He informs me that these seeds are so hard as to lie under the tree four years without sprouting; and there is reason to believe that in a great majority of cases, the germ loses its vitality before the *bony* covering becomes softened."

Ornamental Plants.

"The large white Horse-Chestnut (*Æsculus hippocastanum*) is rather a rare tree; and until this spring, I never had an opportunity to see one in flower. It is certainly very ornamental. Its *upright* clusters of blossoms, disposed with much regularity among the green leaves, contrast finely with the *pendant* flowers of the common locust which blooms at the same time.

"*Wistaria speciosa* (Glycine frutescens of Linnæus) is a very elegant climbing shrub; but to have it flower profusely, it ought to have the whole trellis or *support*, to itself. Climbers are very apt to interfere with each others' prosperity. It is doubtful however, if the Chinese species of *Wistaria* (*W. consequa*) will suit this climate; for a skillful cultivator of exotics near Philadelphia, informed me that his, during a period of some years, had never bloomed.

"The white Fringe Tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*) is a very desirable shrub. Its multitudes of white blossoms, partially hide the leaves; and it requires no great exertion to fancy it enveloped in mist. It is hardy, and grows well in our own district.

"*Phlox maculata* is indigenous to this part of Pennsylvania; and I found it growing abundantly in many of the meadows of Chester and Montgomery counties.

"At Carr's Botanic Garden, (the old homestead of the Bartrams,)—one of the very finest nursery establishments in the United States,—I saw much to interest me. It may be most proper to say but little of its estimable proprietor in this place, but I have good reason to know that he is held in the highest respect by his old customers. The grounds have been greatly improved since my former visit. The shady walks beneath the large and aged trees, planted by the father of American Botany,—are delightful in summer, and are often crowded by visitors from the city and other parts. These vistas front on the Schuylkill; while a more easy slope on the opposite side of the mansion, is laid out into walks of more modern date, which are embellished by a multitude of roses and by nearly three hundred select varieties of the Dahlia, now* beginning to bloom. The Green Houses are extensive; and at this time, he has more than sixteen thousand plants in pots, so great and so increasing is the demand of the public for such ornaments.

"*Magnolia macrophylla* has probably the largest flower of any plant of the temperate zones. The petals of one measured ten inches and a half in length, which would indicate a flower of more than twenty inches in diameter. The tree is hardy, but seems disinclined to flourish on limestone land, though further trials ough to be made.

"A fine *Magnolia grandiflora*, perhaps fifteen feet in height, bore the severe cold of last winter without material injury. In its infant state, it had been carefully protected by enclosing it with a frame; and this was continued till its increased size rendered further attention impracticable. I doubt however, if it could be made to withstand the protracted winters of our Lake Country; but I say this with regret, as it is one of the most ornamental of all ornamental plants.

"*Styraæ grandifolium* and *S. pulverulentum* were in bloom and very pretty. I must renew my attempts to acclimatize these fine shrubs.

"The flower of *Stuartia virginica* is one of the most beatiful that I have seen. It is pure white, which contrasts finely with the dark colored stamens. I have already tried two of these plants in succession, but both seemed to disagree with the soil. I intend to make a third attempt however, and shall hope by some increase of horticultural skill to succeed.

"It is not the season to expect many Green House Plants in bloom, but I found some in this state, and was particularly pleased with the modest but varied beauty of *Alstræmeria pelegrina*. In its form, it greatly resembles a lily. To this is nearly allied *Amaryllis vittata*, a very fine plant, which was likewise in flower.

"*Didymocarpus repii* is a much smaller plant, and does well in a pot of five or six inches diameter. The flower is large in proportion, tubular, and striped. I have placed it on my list of *desiderata*.

"I will only mention one more: *Metrosideros semperflorens*, with flowers of a fine scarlet, arranged in spikes. Its name would imply that it is always in blossom."

* On the 12th ult:

Wool.

This article, says a Philadelphia paper, is becoming one of the greatest importance to our country. Indeed, it would be difficult to account for its culture having so long been neglected, where all the means of producing it are so abundant. We know of no part of the world where Wool has been higher on an average, for the last ten years, than in this country; and no one better calculated to raise it for export than this. Instead of making it an article of remittance to Europe, we have been, and are at present importing it in large quantities, the importer realizing, it is said, a fair profit for his enterprise. By the growth and manufacture of Wool, England has added immensely to her wealth and power. Her clip has been estimated for some years past to exceed one hundred and forty millions of pounds

annually; while here with a soil better adapted to its growth, with lands at about one eighth the price, and ten times more extensive, we do not produce more than seventy-five millions of pounds.

SEASONABLE HINTS FOR JULY.

Mowing.

As this is one of the most laborious parts of farmers' work, and is generally performed at the hottest season of the year, it becomes important to diminish these inconveniences as much as possible. For this purpose, the mower should rise at break of day, and commence his work before sunrise; and he may easily perform half a day's work by nine or ten o'clock. His work will not only be less oppressive from the coolness of the morning, but by the dew upon the grass it will be more easily cut, than it would be otherwise, as every mower is aware. He may then rest himself during the hottest part of the day, while others who rose later are toiling under the burning heat of the noon-tide sun. And by two or three o'clock he will be sufficiently recovered from his morning's fatigue to commence his afternoon's work with freshness and vigor.

In mowing, one of the first principles of economy, is to keep the scythe constantly sharp, and perfectly fast on the snath, as the least degree of looseness increases the labor to an oppressive degree. Grass should be cut as close to the ground as possible, as an inch at bottom will yield more hay than several inches at top. Hence the importance of smooth meadows. Lads and young mowers should not work in company with experienced workmen, as ambition often prompts them to attempt keeping pace with the others and to exert themselves to the injury of their health.

With regard to the *time* of cutting hay, whether early or late is best, a difference of opinion prevails. Experience, and attentive observation, however, show, that hay is best when cut *late*—after wheat harvest for instance—or when the seeds are approaching their time of ripening. Some kinds of hay, more especially clover, may be partial exceptions. Late cutting possesses several advantages. The hay is found to contain a greater quantity of effective nutriment, as is proved by the fact that cattle keep in better condition when fed upon it. It is also much more palatable, and is eaten with greater avidity by cattle and horses. In addition to this, it is much more easily made, requiring far less drying, and thus greatly diminishing both labor and care in the process. Nor is this all. The effect upon the roots which are to produce the succeeding crop is by no means to be overlooked. Many plants are destroyed by cutting off or mowing them while in flower, which would be little injured if the operation were deferred till the seed is ripe; and it is not improbable that many grasses may be materially injured and retarded in their growth in the same way.

Grass beaten down by the wind and rain should however be in general cut immediately, because if neglected, it will rot, or acquire a disagreeable flavor, and become of little value.

Making Hay.

In fine weather, where the crop of grass has been suffered to stand so long as to become nearly ripe, and where the crop is not heavy, drying hay is attended with little difficulty. But the state of things is often reversed. Heavy crops of green grass and clover must necessarily remain upon the ground until time is afforded them for drying, and where the season is wet, the process is often tedious and harrassing. To obviate difficulties, a new method of drying hay has been recommended, and adopted to a considerable extent in England, and in some places in this country. It is that of *drying the hay in cocks.* Some account of this mode was published in the 25th number of this paper of the present year. The English mode of conducting this operation is as follows: The hay is put up into small but well made cocks on the same day it is cut; the next day these remain untouched let the weather be wet or dry; on the third day they are opened, turned in a few hours, and again put up at evening; on the fourth day they are suffered to stand untouched; and on the fifth after being opened an hour or two are fit for the mow or stack. If the usual days for opening are rainy, or uncertain of continuing favorable throughout, the operation is deferred until the first settled fair day, and the work carried on from that time in all respects as before. The advantages of this method are these. The slight fermentation, or what is termed *sweating*, which takes place while the hay stands in cocks, causes it to dry nearly or quite as much when it is opened, as it would if opened every day, consequently a considerable amount of labor is saved; the fermentation or heating which takes place in the cocks, diminishes its tendency to do so in the stack; and by shortening the time of open exposure, the color of the hay is much better preserved and consequently the quality; this is especially the case with clover, which is more injured by drying in the sun than any other kind of hay, the leaves often becoming so dry as to crumble to powder, while the stalks yet continue juicy and green. The care and anxiety of the business is also greatly diminished, because the hay left out each night and during rainy weather is in a condition to withstand every change, and a regular and certain course may thus be pursued through all kinds of weather.

In many, and perhaps in most cases, this mode of drying hay may be unnecessary in this country, where by means of mature crops, a hot sun, and the introduction of the horse rake, the whole operation is rendered but the work of a single day; but there are likewise many instances where this cannot be the case; as where large crops of clover occur; or where hay must necessarily be cut early; or where the season is wet; in these instances it may prove of the greatest importance; and we accordingly invite the attention of intelligent farmers to the subject.

Horse Rake.

As showers not unfrequently arise in hot summer afternoons, a great loss both in labor and in the quality of the hay, is often the consequence; hence the advantage of always having a horse rake ready for use, which enables farmers to collect their hay in a comparatively short time, and thus avoid showers. The expedition with which it works will also allow farmers to leave their hay spread upon the ground to obtain the full benefit of the sun during nearly the whole of the day, as but a short time is required to collect it, just before evening.

Salting Hay

Contributes to the health of stock, and renders it much more palatable. Coarse rushy hay, or hay mixed with straw, when salted, is eaten with avidity, while other hay of the first quality, if unsalted, will be left untouched. The salt should be applied at the rate of about one peck to a load of hay, sprinkled over occasionally as the successive layers are applied in building the mow or stack. This will supersede the necessity of salting cattle in winter, which is often inconvenient at that season of the year. It is also supposed that salting prevents hay from becoming injured when packed away before it is completely dried.

Harvesting Wheat.

A difference of opinion has prevailed in relation to the best time of cutting wheat. Where it can be accomplished, the best time is doubtless when it is *fully ripe.* But this is often attended with great inconvenience, and sometimes with insurmountable difficulties. In the first place, when wheat is left until quite ripe, a large part is almost invariably shelled out in harvesting, and some is scattered in the heads and otherwise wasted. Secondly, wheat is often affected before full maturity, by rust; and it is not unfrequently beaten down by the wind and rain; and in both these cases, if suffered to remain till the usual time of ripening, it would be greatly injured, if not lost. Thirdly, as several days are generally required in getting in a crop, that which is cut last, would be too ripe; the straw would become brittle, and break down, and thus a part become wasted, and a great loss would also occur by the large quantities which would be shelled and scattered upon the ground; and the difficulty would be increased to a still greater degree, if, as sometimes happens, several days of wet weather should supervene; and indeed whole crops are frequently spoiled from this very cause. For these reasons, it is generally most expedient to commence cutting several days before the grain becomes completely ripe. When the straw is dry for a short distance below the head, or when the grain has passed from the milk to the dough state, it will not be too early. It is of material importance that care be taken to select those parts of the field to begin with, which ripen earliest.

Experiment has shown that wheat when cut early does not shrink so much in consequence, as has been often supposed. Indeed, when properly managed, very little if any diminution of bulk takes place. To prevent shrinking, when cut thus early, it should not be suffered to lie long on the ground, exposed to the heat of the sun, as in that case the straw would be too suddenly dried, and the grain denied that nourishment from it, necessary for its perfection. But it should be bound up and placed in small shocks, where the drying will go on gradually. The objection that early cut wheat is harder to thrash, has been in a great measure removed by the introduction of thrashing machines.

A European writer who is a practical farmer has even asserted that from repeated experiments he is led to believe, "that provided the grain has attained its full size, the greener the wheat is cut the better will be the product;" and many scien

tific men have advanced the opinion that the alimentary qualities in wheat and other cereal plants are produced before the complete maturity of the grain.

But even admitting that wheat loses something by being harvested a few days in advance, it is certainly better to do this, when properly managed, than to waste a part, as must be the case when it becomes too ripe, or to run the risk of losing still more by wet weather.

Wheat intended for *seed*, should however in all cases be well ripened.

We have been the more full in these remarks, that the attention of farmers might be drawn to the subject; a proper knowledge of which may be the means of saving many valuable crops, especially in those districts of country which are subject to long continued rains.

Wheat, unless quite dry when cut, should never be drawn in or stacked the same day, but should stand on the ground until entirely free from dampness. It must therefore be put up so as effectually to exclude all rain which may in the mean time fall upon it. This is best effected by placing six sheaves neatly and compactly in a circle, pressing the heads to a point, and capping the whole with a seventh. The cap is made by tieing a band tightly near the lower end, and spreading the straw out in all directions by breaking it just above the band, and then placing it inverted upon the pyramid of sheaves already formed. It will form a roof on all sides, and throw off the rain so effectually that the grain will remain uninjured through the longest season of wet weather. One man will put up in a day as much as can be cut by two or three cradles. Farmers may easily judge whether they would prefer incurring the expense of this and insuring their crops, to running the risk of having them spoiled by rains, as often happens when they are nicely set up in the usual manner in double rows.

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Grain for Seed,

Should be selected from the cleanest and most thrifty parts of the field; a constant attention to this will cause a permanent improvement in the kind. By gathering single heads, remarkable for their size, earliness, &c. and propagating from them, improved varieties may be gradually obtained, in the same way that improved breeds of cattle are procured.

—

Canada Thistles,

Where they have been suffered to grow, are now rapidly advancing towards maturity; they should therefore be mowed without delay, or they will soon send out clouds of seed and spread themselves in every direction. But no one should rest satisfied with merely preventing their extension. Much the cheapest way of disposing of them is to attack them vigorously and destroy them at once. When they cover a large piece of land, it is easiest to kill them by repeated ploughings. Turning them under seven or eight times during the season will perhaps not be too much. Very few patches will be found to withstand the ordeal of such treatment; and it will be in reality more economical in the end, than to protract the warfare through several summers. If the patch is not completely destroyed the first year, a few plants will lift their heads above the surface the following season; they must therefore be watched, and as soon as they appear, subjected to immediate decapitation. No root can live when repeatedly deprived of its stem and leaves.

Mr. Hussey's Grain Cutter.

We are gratified to learn, as we do from the following, that our wheat growing farmers are to have an opportunity the present season to examine the operations of the machine recently invented by Mr. Hussey of Cincinnati, for harvesting grain, and which has excited so extensive interest the past year.

Mr. Tucker—In answer to the inquiries of Unus,—having by use of the Grain Cutting Machine of Mr. Hussey last summer, become convinced of its value, I ordered one at Mr. Bill's machine shop. The price he gave me, $150. I am able also to state, on the authority of Mr. Hussey's agent, that he will make use of his machine in the several principal grain growing counties of the state the coming harvest season. As we, i. e. the farming community, have been imposed on by puffers, he proposes, instead of taking this course, to make exhibition of its usefulness.

Having no interest in the machine, except as a well wisher to every laboring man, I do not hesitate to urge more freely the farming community to examine the machine for themselves when in their neighborhood.

I am yours, &c. Wm. C. Dwight.

Ploughing Under Green Crops

FOR MANURE.

Being the owner of a small farm, most of which was in a low state of cultivation at the time I commenced making experiments, and feeling desirous of enriching it faster than I could with stable and barn yard manure, the quantity made being small, I therefore resolved to try the effect of ploughing under green crops. The piece upon which I tried my experimant contains nearly four acres, and is of a hazle-nut colored loam, lying near the Connecticut river.

In 1831, the lot above mentioned had wheat and rye reaped from it; about 1 3-4 were of wheat, and produced 17 bushels, yielding 9 5-7 bushels to the acre. The 2 1-4 acres of rye yielded about 27 bushels being 12 bushels to the acre—total of wheat and rye, 44 bushels. The ground for the wheat was ploughed three times and had the same number of harrowings. That for rye was ploughed but twice, with two harrowings; clover and herdsgrass were sown on the whole piece.—At the time of raising the grain, I did not intend trying any experiment; but the grass seed not having come up well, the lot was ploughed once in August, 1832, and sown with rye, was fed down with sheep in the fall and also in the spring, until about May; thus affording sufficient feed to pay the expense of the seed for the first crop.

After the sheep were taken from the grain, it was left to grow until about the time it blossomed, when it was ploughed under, and the ground sown with buckwheat—1-2 bushel of seed to the acre. When the buckwheat was in blossom, that was also ploughed under; after which the ground was suffered to remain until a short time before it was sown, when it was again ploughed once, sown with wheat and rye, October 3d. Previous to sowing the wheat, the seed was soaked about twenty-four hours in brine, and afterwards rolled in plaster, where it remained in a body twelve or sixteen hours. My object in treating it in this manner was to prevent smut, and the ravages of the Hessian fly, which has several times destroyed some of my wheat; but fortunately the crops the present year were uninjured by them. The rye was sown in its natural state.

In the spring of 1834 the whole piece was plastered with about two bushels to the acre. It was sown for the purpose of benefitting the young grass, and it has now (spring of 1835) come up well, and bids fair to produce nearly twice the quantity of feed usually obtained from it in a season. The quantity of grain which the piece produced the past season is as follows: About one acre was sown with white flint wheat and yielded 16 bushels—2 3-8 acres were sowed with red bearded wheat, and produced 33 bushels, making in all 49 bushels or 14 1-2 to the acre—5-8 of an acre was sown with rye and yielded about twelve bushels, being at the rate of 19 1-5 bushels to the acre. The increase of the wheat crop, according to the above estimate, was more than 49 per cent. and that of the rye more than 59 per cent. Had the past season been favorable for wheat crops, I doubt not that I should have obtained eight or ten bushels more. Perhaps some may think the plaster caused the last crop to be better than the preceding one; but I do not think it was, as I sowed some on a piece of rye the past season, a part of which was left unplastered, and it could not be discovered that the plaster benefitted either rye or land—the soil was the same as that on which the wheat was sown.—*Northampton Courier.*

Measuring Corn.

The following rule for ascertaining the quantity of shelled corn, in a house of any dimensions, is by Wm. M. Murray, esq. of South Carolina, and was read before the St. John's Colleton Agricultural Society, and communicated by them for publication in the Southern Agriculturist:

"*Rule.* Having previously levelled the corn in the house, so that it will be of equal depth thro'out, ascertain the length, breadth and depth of the bulk; multiply these dimensions together, and their products by 4; then *cut off one figure* from the right of this last product. This will give so many bushels and a decimal of a bushel of shelled corn. If it be required to find the quantity in ear corn, substitute 8 for 4, and cut of one figure as before.

Example. In a bulk of corn in the ear, measuring 12 feet long, 11 feet broad and 6 feet deep, there will be 316 bushels and 8 tenths of a bushel of shelled corn, or 633 bushels and 6 tenths of ear corn—as:

12	12
11	11
132	132
6	6
792	792
4	8
316,8	633,6

Mr. Murray demonstrates the correctness of his rule thus:

In a cubic or solid foot there are 1728 cubic inches. Suppose the solid contents of a bulk of ear corn to be 792 cubic feet, as in the above example, it is plain, if we multiply this sum by 1,728, we reduce it to cubic inches; divide this product by 2,150, (rejecting the two-fifths as unimportant, and we evidently have the number of bushels of ear-corn in the bulk, *i. e.* about 636 1-2 bushels, or about three bushels more than was obtained by the operation of the rule. But conceive 1728 and 2150 to constitute together a vulgar fraction thus, $\frac{1728}{2150}$—in order to arrive at the true number of bushels, we have multiplied by the numerator 1728 and divided by the denominator 2150. Now the vulgar fraction $\frac{8}{11}$ is a very near approximation to the fraction $\frac{1728}{2150}$; therefore, to multiply by 8 and divide by 10 would produce very nearly the same result; this we have in effect done by multiplying by the decimal, 8. The decimal 4 is used when the object is to find the quantity in shelled corn, because that decimal is the half of the decimal 8, and it requires two bushels of ear corn to make one of shelled corn. In using those rules a half bushel should be added for every hundred, that amount of error resulting from the substitution of the decimals.—*Farmer and Gardener.*

COMMUNICATIONS.

The Horse.

BY W. G.

If, as is generally supposed, Arabia is the native country of the horse, it is at least singular that his domestication and general use should have taken place at so late a period, as by the earliest authentic records of those ages appears was the fact. The Pentateuch having been written in the immediate vicinity of Arabia, and penned by one who had spent a considerable part of his life in its deserts, and whose authority as a historian of preceding events few have been hardy enough to dispute, certainly none able to overthrow, has in the sacred history incidentally given some valuable information on this topic, as on almost every one connected with the natural history of the earth. The first enumeration of domestic animals occurs in the twelfth chapter of Genesis, about 426 years after the flood, and consists of "sheep, and oxen, and he-asses, and men-servants and maid-servants, and she-asses, and camels." By the by, the southerners have here high authority for the practice which has given so much offence to the sober citizens of the north, that of including their slaves in their auction notices and sales, as goods and chattels, in the midst of lands, horses and oxen. That the horse was domesticated at this time is not probable, since if he had been the prince and patriarch Abraham would scarcely failed of having some in his extensive establishment. For centuries afterwards the horse is not mentioned, though frequent reference is made to asses and camels, as beasts of burden and conveyance. The first allusion to the horse occurs 659 years after the flood, in Genesis 49, where Dan is likened to an adder that biteth the horse's heels so that the rider falleth backwards. The horse is not mentioned again until the departure of the children of Israel from Egypt, about 856 years after the flood, when horsemen, and horses and chariots, are spoken of in such a manner that shows they were then a subjugated and trained animal. We think there is good reason to believe that the plains around the Caspian are the native region of the horse, as the country to the eastward of that lake is undoubtedly that of the ass and the dromedary or camel. The greater fleetness and wildness of the horse would render him able for a longer period to remain free, but since his naturalization among the wandering tribes of Ishmael, he seems to have reached a state of beauty, docility and perfection rarely if ever attained in his native wilds. W. G.

Management of the Vine.

BY A. M. CLARK.

My management of the vine is,

First—to get the most ripe wood; and,

Second—to perfect the ripening of the grape.

1. In order to get the most ripe wood, I, in my summer training, take out all the wood which shows no fruit, and also pinch off all the laterals, taking care to give about one foot space between each shoot, to the top of my trellises, which are about 6½ feet high. I train my vines, (i. e. the Catawba, Fox, Munier, Sweet Water, and White Frontenac and White Chasselas,) fan shaped; and as soon as I find my grapes out of blow, I head down my vines to the top of the trellises, leaving about two buds from the fruit upon each shoot. By this means I get light and air through the vines, which, 2d, ripens the fruit much sooner. As the foliage is thinned out, the sap flows more readily to the fruit, and does not evaporate upon the leaves, but is retained in the fruit, which is certainly a benefit. I keep my vines as free as possible from grass and weeds, and loosen the earth around them once or twice a week with a garden hoe, thereby giving the roots all the advantage of a loose soil.

During the dry weather in the latter part of May, I found that the ants had taken possession of several of the roots of my vines, and nearly, before I was aware of it, laid the roots near the surface bare of earth. I soon removed those trespassers by applying a shovel or two full of ashes on the spot infested, and in a few hours they removed, and I have not been troubled with them since.

I am training this year an Isabella vine upon a little different plan. I lead out upon each side of the vine four or five arms, and tie them fast to the trellises, to the length of eighteen or twenty feet, which gives me eight arms from thirty-six to forty feet long. I thin them as the shoots grow, lead them up to the trellis above, and tie fast. In that way I fill up all the space, say of 7 feet high by 40 feet long, say 280 square feet, each shoot averaging 3 clusters of grapes. My vine thus trained, this year will yield me from four to five bushels of ripe fruit. A. M. CLARK.

Rochester, June 27, 1835.

From the Cultivator.

Under Drains---Wheat---Clover.

Sing-Sing, April 18, 1835.

JESSE BUEL.—As you are writing considerable for the instruction of farmers, in the way of making drains and filling them up, I am induced to give you the way which the farmers of the low lands of Scotland practice, and which I have adopted, in filling drains with stones, and it is this:—I select such stones as are thin and flat, and set them on the bottom of the drain, on their thinnest edge, or on one corner, and close to the side thereof; then against the stones first set up, I set other stones, with their sharpest ends down; and against them, others in like manner, until the bottom of the drain is covered with them, something in the way of the annexed representation, in which it will be perceived, that the water will have a free passage between the points of the stones which are on the bottom of the drain. The advantages of this mode of filling a drain are simply these, (the sides of a drain being sloping, as I think they always ought to be:) the stones are to be put in, in such a manner that the pressure which comes on them is thrown to the sides of the drain, and thereby saves them from settling and choking up the passages for water, and consequently prolongs its duration, and it is soon done. Where flat stones cannot be had, any stones may be made use of, provided they are of a wedge-like shape. As the upright stones will not be all of a length, the first which are laid on them should be large, and if possible flat, and that will make another large opening for the free passage of water, if the bottom is insufficient, or gets filled up. I think the bottom of a drain should be narrow, and a little the lowest in the middle, in order to concentrate the force of the water into one direct channel, the better to keep it free and clear. For instance, a ditch three feet wide at the top, and three feet deep, should not be more than one foot wide at bottom.

I have a piece of wheat which was sown about the middle of last September, on a dry soil, of which I should think nearly two thirds is dead, with the roots fair in the ground, the cause of the death of which I could not account for until I read Mr. Hickock's communication,* read before the State Agricultural Society, which came in the April number of the Cultivator, the substance of which was, that the saccharine matter designed for the support of the plant is more likely to be destroyed when grain is sowed early than when it is sowed late. I have another piece which was sown the 4th of October, on wet heavy land, which has survived the winter admirably well, it being difficult to find a spear that has died. I have yet another piece, which was sowed October 20th, of which I suppose the one-third part or one-half is dead. On all the above pieces, wheat was sown at the rate of two bushels per acre, so there is enough left yet.

Last spring I sowed my clover seed, on the same land, at two different times, about five lbs. to the acre each time. The first time I sowed near the last of March; the second time the 10th of April. Soon after I sowed the first time we had a warm rain, and the seed sprouted on the top of the ground any where; soon after we had a severe frost, and I observed that the sprouts of all those seeds which were shot forth on the top of the ground, were killed, whilst those which shot into the ground, were not injured. I further noticed that such seeds or plants as had burst the shell and unfolded the first two leaves, were killed, while those which were still covered by the shell of the seed survived. In fact nearly all the plants of the first sowing were killed, but of that which I sowed the 10th of April, a large proportion lived. I gathered up several seeds of the first sowing, which had sprouted, but still retained their shell, the sprouts whereof had been killed by the frost, and planted them, thinking they might sprout the second time, but none of them did. It is urged in favor of early sowing, that if the seed is not sowed whilst the ground is freezing and thawing and full of cracks, that the seed will not get in the earth so as to shoot its roots therein and live, but my opinion is, that if farmers were to sow their clover seed from the 8th to the 15th of April, and harrow and roll, or if the ground is heavy, merely roll it in, they would secure to themselves the great desideratum, a good crop of clover. I further think that a great many of the seeds which fall into the cracks, sink too low down ever to reach the top, and that would suggest the propriety of rolling the ground to press in the seeds that do not fall in the cracks, and thus perhaps secure the life of almost the only plants that can eventually come to perfection. If the ground is harrowed and rolled, I think the seed should be sowed after the harrow, that the cracks may first be filled up; if a plant, after it shows its first leaves, gets covered up, (as I think a great part of those which germinate in the crevices do,) it is done forever.

I want you, if you please, to inform me, thro' the Cultivator, why the skin of young pigs cracks open, if they eat green clover, and whether you know of any preventive; and also whether it will cause their skin to crack if it is mown and given them in a wilted state.

If you think any of the above is worth publishing, you are at liberty to do it.

With respect, I am your friend,
JESSE RYDER.

REMARK.—We confess ourselves unable to answer, satisfactorily, the queries in relation to pigs.—*Cond.*

TO ASSESSORS.—The assessors in the several towns may have completed their assessment of real and personal estate, but have they complied with the law taxing dogs? We make this in-

[* Gen. Far. vol. 5, p. 194.]

quiry at the request of several gentlemen from different parts of the county. There is considerable feeling on the subject, from the fact that many sheep have recently been destroyed by dogs. Within about four weeks three flocks in this town have been attacked, but not much injured. In addition, Mr. James H. Allen, about a mile south of this village, discovered three dogs among his sheep on Monday morning last, all of which he killed; they had hurt but two, an ewe and a lamb, having probably just got in the flock. If the assessors have completed their assessments without including dogs, we will mention that there is an earnest desire that they should go over again and include them, as those who lose sheep by dogs have only the sums thus assessed to look to to cover the loss which they may suffer—except in very rary rare instances, when the owner of the dog can be discovered and is responsible.—*Poughkeepsie Telegraph.*

Wool.

Col. Shepherd, of Worcester, (formerly of Northampton) was present at the late wool-growers' meeting in Shelburne, and made some statements in regard to the present state and prospect of the market, which will probably be generally interesting.

He estimated the amount of wool raised last year in the United States, at 75,000,000 pounds.

There were imported during the same year three millions and a half coarse wool, under eight cents per pound, and thirty-four thousand pounds of fine wool. In the same period, about 350,000 pounds of American were exported, leaving about 78,800,000 manufactured in this country. In addition to the above, wool was imported in the shape of manufactured cloth, to the amount of about 6,000,000 pounds. The whole amount of wool consumed then was 84,800,000.

He expressed it as his opinion, that the next clip would bring as high prices as the last, for the following reasons: He had taken pains to ascertain the amount of cloth and of wool which were now in the market; and he had ascertained that the stock of both were extremely low—much lower than they were at the same time last season. He imputed the late importation of foreign wool, not to the alleged conspiracy among the manufacturers to depress the price of native wool, but to the fact that the market was nearly bare of stock, and they were thus obliged to go abroad for it. He said that the manufacturers had done a profitable business during the past year, and the result would be a considerable extension during the next, which would correspondingly increase the demand for the raw material. During the last twelve months new machinery capable of manufacturing two millions of pounds of wool per annum, had been set up in Worcester county and its vicinity alone. Believing then that the demand for manufacture and consumption had been and would be rather in advance of the production, he inferred that the current prices of wool would at present be sustained. He alluded to the fact that thirty or forty thousand pounds of fine American wool had been exported during the past year.—This speculation he said, had proved a profitable one; the wool was of a long, fine staple, and was meant to be used in the manufacture of merino shawls.

Col. Shepherd stated some interesting facts in relation to the early stages of the wool manufacture in this state. His attention was first attracted to this subject in 1808, by noticing the flimsy, trashy imported stuff, the superior finish of which enabled it to drive out of the market our coarse and strong home-made cloth. In 1809, he bought all the native wool which was to be found in Boston and its vicinity, with a view to use it in the manufacture of negro cloths. He gave from 33 42 cents per pound for it, and it shortly afterwards rose to fifty. In 1810 he procured from Col. Humphrey a buck and eleven ewes from the first flock of Spanish merinoes imported into this country.

In 1818, in conjunction with the late Governor Gray, he imported Saxony bucks from Hamburgh, at a cost of about $100 each. Since first starting in the business, though unfortunate in the pecuniary result of his own exertions, he had had the pleasure of seeing the wool culture and manufacture extending itself widely, striking firm root and adding millions to the wealth of the country.

We observe by Col. Shepherd's circular that he has taken a building in Worcester for the transaction of a commission business in American wool, his charges being at the rate of two and a half per cent on all sales.—*Franklin Mercury.*

Fence Posts.

Mr. Editor—I have been desirous for some time of addressing, through the medium of your paper my farming brethren on an important subject, viz. *the means of rendering fence posts durable,* but I have not found suitable leisure until this day, which is by far the most tempestuous known in this region for the last thirty years. In my remarks I shall confine myself to my own experience. During winter when getting up my wood I make a practice of selecting my hemlock logs from ten to fourteen inches in diameter, clear from shakes and pretty straight. These being carefully peeled, I take them to a neighboring sawmill, and have them sawed as follows; first through the center, and then turned on the side and sawed through twice so as to form six posts from one log. These I stick up under cover during one summer at least, so as to have them thoroughly seasoned. Then some time during the winter, I heat a large kettle of tar and thoroughly smear with it about three feet of the largest end of the post, and then stick them up again ready for use. The tar ought to extend a little above the surface of the ground so as to prevent the moisture as much as possible from penetrating into the post. The reason of preparing them so long before they are wanted for use is to allow the tar to become hard by exposure to the air.—When posts are prepared in this way, I am confident from my own experience they last more than twice as long as when set up in the usual way.

Some farmers of my acquaintance set their posts green and with the bark on. In this case, decay commences immediately, the bark acting as a sponge to absorb and retain moisture and in the course of four or five years every high wind knocks down a number of posts which fall so heavily and with so much force as to break or to split the boards, and thus do material damage; and then by not having a supply of posts on hand they are obliged to take their teams (which are wanted for other purposes) into the woods for a new set of this miserable apology for fence posts. Taking all things into consideration (and this farmers ought to do) I think about one half of the expense of supporting a post and board fence is saved by this method.—*National Eagle.*

Currant Wine.

We give below a recipe for making currant Wine; we received it from one of our neighbors, whose domestic wine we have often partaken of, which was made according to the recipe given. It was according to our taste quite equal to the wines commonly sold as imported.

Take of expressed currant juice,	8 gals.
Clear good water,	16 "
	Gals. 24

To each gallon of the mixture,
Take 3 lbs. of muscovado sugar,
Or 72 lbs. for the 24 gallons.

Mix these ingredients and put them into a clean cask, taking care that the cask be perfectly filled and kept so—lay the bung loosely over the bung hole and suffer it to remain in a cool place for three or four weeks—then put the bung in tight, leaving open only a small vent hole for the escape of the air, formed in the process of the vinous fermentation, until winter or in the next spring. At that time rack it carefully into a well cleansed cask. If this process is performed by means of a syphon so as to exclude the contract of atmospheric air, as much as possible it will be the better. Then bung up tight—being careful that the cask is perfectly full, for upon the exclusion of atmospheric air the success depends. In one year this will be found one of the best of drinks to mix with water.—*Farmer and Gardener.*

The Wheat and Root Crops.

We believe it is no longer a question, that the *wheat crop* will prove a *short one,* and that from present appearances, in many districts heretofore distinguished for superiority in quality, and greatness of yield, not much more than the seed, can be expected to be returned; and that in others, all seem to think, as if by common consent, that if half a crop should be realized, it will be a source of profound thankfulness.

With such prospects ahead, we feel it our duty once more to remind our agricultural friends that it is *now time* they were turning their thoughts upon the subject of *root crops,* generally. *Potatoes, Carrots, Parsneps, Mangel Wurtzel* and *Beets,* require immediate attention. A few acres of these placed in ground well manured and prepared, and well attended to, will secure both comfort and plenty for both man and beast, during a long winter, and backward spring. And as the period for *turneps* is coming on apace, the judicious farmer will, of course, look around him, take time by the forelock, and put the ground he has allotted for that prolific root, into a proper state to receive and nurture it. Nor should it be forgotten, that now is the time to set out *cabbage plants.* An acre with a plant on every 2 feet 6 inches, by 3 feet, would grow 5,808 cabbages, which would require but three hoeings from the time of transplanting, until they would be fit to be put away for winter. These at two cents apiece, would bring, in the gross, $117,13 cents, if sold; and if fed out to the milch cows, through the winter, would greatly tend to increase the profits of the dairy, the comforts of the house, and the luxuries of the table. It is impossible to keep cows to their milk upon dry food; and every farmer should, therefore, provide roots of all kinds, pumpkins, and cabbages to give them when they are cut off from the green vegetation of the clover fields and pastures. If the milk should be injuriously affected by any, or either of the vegetables named, a small piece of saltpeter thrown into the pan, when the milk is freshly strained, will correct the flavor.—*Farmer and Gardener.*

Chinese Mulberry.

The Worcester Spy, in speaking of the Black Mulberry, says "*in its adaption to our climate it has the preference to the Chinese Mulberry.*" This is a disputed question. We are in opposition to the Spy on this point. The Morus Multicaulis has been tested in this town, both from the seed, cuttings and layers, more thoroughly, perhaps than in any other section of the United States.—The opinion here is decidedly in favor of the Chinese plant, that with proper cultivation, it is as hardy and vigorous as any of our native forest trees. This fact has been established by repeated and cautious experiments here as well as elsewhere. It consists in simply not forcing the growth of the plant unnaturally, by nutriment and hoeing. One tree in this town has stood three or four winters, including the last severe one, uninjured, by permitting it to grow with the same disregard with which we nourish other forest trees. Hundreds of others which had acquired an artificial, unnatural rapid growth, were destroyed down to the earth by the severity of the last winter.

It is demonstrated to the entire satisfaction of cultivators here, that the plant will easily become acclimated. This being established, its capability of producing good silk, even superior to the black mulberry, has also been tested. The worms eat up the entire leaf, stems and all, and the nutricious matter is found to surpass any other mulberry leaf. The ease and rapidity with which it can be propagated is another very important consideration. When multiplied by layers, no sooner does the plant throw up a small twig, than the leaves begin to show themselves and they go on increasing with the height of the stem, until it is entirely hid by the foliage. A stalk comes to the

height of two or three feet in a few weeks, and leaves as large as the cabbage plant hang all over its sides. Unlike the other mulberries, they yield food for worms almost immediately after the shoots emerge from the ground. The tree does not exceed six or eight feet in height and is just suited to the capacity of children to gather them. Nature has adapted this beautiful plant in the wisest manner for the nourishment of the Silk-worm.—*Northampton Cour.*

Agricultural Tour.

Extract from an "Agricultural Tour," by the Rev. Henry Coleman, published in the New York Farmer:

Petersburgh is in New York; and a change in the general appearance of things is seen as soon as you pass the line of the State. The barracks for hay and some of the barns covered with thatch; a different construction of their farm wagons; the general use of horses instead of oxen; and houses with low piazzas in front, the Dutch style of building, indicate a population of different habits and notions from those in New England. Many of the early settlers in this part of the country were Dutch, and though the New Englanders have become intermixed with them, some of the usages of their ancestors are retained.

On the Hoosic river, in Petersburgh or Hoosic, I visited a very superior dairy farm owned by Mr. Tibbits, of Albany, and occupied by Mr. Bussey. Four hundred acres of intervale land lay in front of the house, adapted to the raising of grain and abundant crops of grass. At present fiftyfive cows are kept on the place; and besides butter, which is marketed every week or fortnight at Troy, a cheese is made every day weighing from 80 to 90 pounds. He pays a rent of 10,000 lbs. of new milk cheese annually; and last year, besides his rent, he sold upwards of five thousand pounds. He likewise raises a great many pigs, which he sells in autumn. The dairy establishment was in very neat order, and managed with great industry and skill. The large cheeses presented a magnificent show; but no great pains were bestowed on the cultivation or general appearance of things out doors. Perhaps it is too much to expect from a tenant, whose lease of ten years was about to expire, what might be looked for in an owner. Indeed, no improvements could be claimed but such as was provided for in the lease.

At Hoosic I visited the farm of Mr. Joseph Percy, distinguished for his admirable stock. His cattle are the Improved Durham Short Horns, and descended from a bull imported by a Mr. Colden, and a cow imported by Mr. George Tibbits of Albany. Mr. Percy has some of the stock, which is unmixed and others crossed with some of our best native stock. The appearance of his cattle did him great credit, and he represents them as distinguished for the excellence of their milking qualities. He raises large numbers of swine, which graze in his pastures, and are sold in the autumn as shoats. Every thing about his establishment appeared in fine order. Several farms in his neighborhood seemed equally well managed; and I regretted that it was not in my power to visit them. This is a rich and beautiful country. The hill farms are represented as suffering much from being ploughed, and when laid down to grass, not sufficiently seeded, so that they are liable to be severely washed by the rains.

My route lay along the northern bank of the Hoosic river (which after a considerable bend runs in a westerly direction,) and carried me through Buskirk bridge and Schaghticoke to Stillwater.—This is a beautiful and highly favored valley. The alluvions on the river are extremly fertile; and the hills, which contain a considerable admixture of clay, with slaty gravel, are highly favorable to crops of wheat, oats, peas, and clover, and not adverse to Indian corn, the product of which here is about 35 to 40 bushels to the acre, as well as I could judge from the appearance of the fields at a later season, and from information given me.—The corn cultivated here is of the eight rowed kind; rather a small ear; and though not white, yet not of that deep yellow which we sometimes see. This corn was recommended for the small size of its cob; but I am disposed to believe from some careful examinations, the results of which were communicated to the public through the columns of that admirably conducted journal, the Genesee Farmer, that the weight of cob in the different varieties of corn will be found to bear a pretty equal proportion to the weight of the grain upon it; and in this matter, therefore, the small will be found to have no advantage over the large ears. I speak particularly of the flint corn, having made no examination of the gourd seed varieties, where I suspect the advantage will be perhaps more in favor of the large ear. There is however one advantage on the side of the corn with the small cob, which deserves much consideration. The corn with the small cob is more likely to be dry and sound, and becomes merchantable earlier than that with a large cob. The large cob retains its moisture much longer; and where the season is backward, or the corn late, or where it is harvested by being cut up at the bottom while the stalks are green, and ripened in the stack, there is danger, especially if the season be unfavorable, of its becoming mouldy in the bin. I have known serious losses to accrue from this circumstance, especially where the corn after being husked had been placed in large heaps, and the granary not well ventilated. This, in fact, is the only objection I have to what is called the Dutton corn, so much commended by Judge Buel, and of which he has exhibited at the agricultural shows some splendid samples; and also to other twelve and fourteen rowed varieties. This circumstance, as I have recently learned, has induced some very intelligent farmers in New Hampshire, on the Connecticut river, to give up the cultivation of the Dutton corn for the eight rowed varieties. The large twelve rowed corn, will, I believe, produce ordinarily more bushels to the acre than the small eight rowed corn. A good sized ear of the twelve rowed will yield more than half a pint of shelled grain; one of the small eight rowed will not exceed a gill. A field of the twelve rowed will yield generally one good ear to a stalk; a field of the small eight rowed will do no more; for I have not found, in my own cultivation, that the eight rowed is more likely to produce two ears to the stalk than the twelve rowed. Its producing two ears in either case, depends, in my opinion, something upon the selection of seed from twinbearing stalks, but more upon wide planting; as corn which is crowded or closely planted will very rarely produce more than one good ear to a stalk; if there is a second, it is commonly imperfect, and a mere nubbin. It is obvious, then, that the twelve rowed corn will yield more than the eight rowed to the acre; but it will not yield twice as much, because the small kind will bear much closer planting than the large kinds, as the stalks and leaves are not nearly so luxuriant. The kind grown in this part of the country was remarkable for its low growth, and the ears being set very near to the ground; the stalks being in this case small, the fodder is more easily saved, but the yield of herbage is much less to the acre. It may be expected on this account to ripen earlier. The small amount of stalk and leaves is, I believe, attributable to their not manuring their corn lands, rather than to any peculiarity in the kind of corn. That high manuring in the same year of planting the corn will produce a great amount of stalk and leaf, is well known; but the actual yield of grain is always in proportion to the luxuriance of the plant, is a point not so well established, and upon which I should be extremely glad of the opinions of observing and practical farmers. That the extraordinary luxuriance of the plant will delay the ripening of the grain is certain. Market-men near our large cities understand this, as they never manure the peas they wish to bring forward very early; and it is a common observation, how well founded I will not say, that the very high manuring of potatoes causes them to "run too much to vine;" and the quantity of potatoes in the hill is not always in proportion to the luxuriance of the tops. Whether in such cases, if the season were long enough to admit of the perfect maturity of the plant, the yield of grain and of tubers would not correspond with the great luxuriance of the herbage or stalks, is another query which grows out of the subject, and deserves inquiry and attention, as it is a matter of great practical importance to ascertain, if possible, (which can only be done by long observation and experiment,) to what degree corn, potatoes, or other plants, may be safely and advantageously forced by manure, with a due regard to the actual return in grain or tubers. I have spoken above of the small varieties of the eight rowed corn, though not of the smallest. The Hoosic corn is larger than what is called the Canada corn, though probably it is the same, and has acquired a larger size from successive planting in a lower latitude. The ear is about ten inches in length. A kind of eight rowed corn is grown on the Deerfield meadows, which frequently measures sixteen inches in length, and from a single ear of which I have sometimes obtained a full pint of grain. It ripens late, however, and requires early and very wide planting. On our fine alluvions, with high manuring, it yields about fifty bushels to the acre. It weighs from fifty-seven to sixty pounds to the bushel, whereas, my twelve rowed and a small eight rowed corn, which I have grown upon a thin soil, weigh from sixty to sixty-four pounds per bushel.

Another inquiry connected with this subject deserves attention. Is the color of the corn any index of its nutricious properties? This is a subject for experiment, and for chemical analysis.—Between the varieties of the yellow and the white flint corn, I have made no experiments. The prejudices in favor of the one or the other in different parts of the country, where the one or the other is cultivated, are strong, and as in most cases exactly coincident with the interests or habits of different individuals; those who grow and eat the yellow pronouncing the white tasteless, and those who grow and eat the white, with the same self-complacency disdaining the yellow. But between the yellow flint of the northern States, and the white gourd seed of the south, I am inclined to believe there is a difference in nutricious properties in favor of the former. This opinion is formed only on a single experiment, which I made some years ago; but of which I preserved no written record, and can only state it from memory, and therefore not with that minute accuracy which I should desire in all such cases to observe. I had a cow, which I put in the barn in October, fed her abundantly with hay, and gave her four quarts of meal per day of the yellow flint corn; saved all the milk, and weighed her produce in butter, which during the week was nine pounds. The second week her feed was the same as before, excepting that the meal given her was the meal of the white gourd seed, or what goes among us by the name of Virginia, or southern flat corn. Her produce this week in butter fell short of eight pounds. The third week I fed her as before in quantity, and returned again to the meal of the yellow flint corn; and her produce in butter was as the first week, nine pounds. I took the exclusive care of her myself during the time, and can assign no cause for the difference in the product but the difference in the quality of the meal.—There may have been other causes, however, and by no means regard a single experiment as decisive on this or any similar subject. The meal in the several cases was measured, not weighed; the actual quantity given, therefore, though it appeared the same, might not have been the same; and I record the experiment because I deem all such trials, where all the circumstances connected with them are detailed, of some value; and in the hope that it may induce others to make similar experiments in other matters as humble; for which experiments, if they speak of them, they may get nothing from their overwise neighbors but the sneers of real ignorance, indolence, and self-conceit, the usual attendant of ignorance and indolence, but from which they will derive themselves much pleasure and satisfaction. They are attended with little trouble or expense, and from them, in some cases, the most important results may be obtained.

To return from this digression—I found, as I

proceeded, many excellent tracts of land, and much good cultivation. The crops of grass and oats were everywhere abundant, the former on the uplands being greatly benefitted by gypsum, which is generally scattered broad-cast at the rate of about a bushel to the acre. With us it is generally considered desirable to sow plaster on grass lands, either in a gentle rain or just before a rain; whether any particular advantage arises from this circumstance, I know of no facts sufficient to decide. It perhaps enables the sower to cast it more evenly; it is less scattered by the wind, and settles more immediately about the plants; as well as adheres to their leaves, which is by some considered advantageous. Indeed I know some intelligent farmers who recommend the sprinkling of plaster upon the corn blades, and the tops of the potatoes, as the best mode of its application. My own experiments, however, and those of several other farmers whom I have consulted, incline me to believe, that the best mode of its use in respect to corn and potatoes is to deposit it with the seed in the hill at the time of planting. Not so, however, with wood ashes, which, when applied to corn I think should be placed on the hill near the plants; as in a case where I manured a considerable field of corn with ashes in the hill at the time of planting, to the amount of at least half a pint to the hill, well intermixed with the earth, the result was almost a total failure. In spite of all our theories, however, the operation of this wonderful manure, gypsum is still a matter of deep mystery, and its proper application can be determined only by many experiments yet to be made.

The rotation of crops, as practised by the farmers in Pittston and Hoosic, and communicated to me by an intelligent cultivator, is as follows: On the green-sward broken up they planted Indian corn; the next year oats or flax; the succeeding year wheat with clover. The same is then mowed or depastured with sheep or cattle two years; and then the same course of crops is taken. This corn is not manured; but by means of the clover is kept in good condition. The land is planted in hills about two and a half or three feet apart, and is judged to yield about forty bushels to the acre.

Fodder on Corn---Reaping WHEAT GREEN.

The subject of stripping Indian corn blades and topping the corn, is practiced generally in this part of Virginia, having been noticed several times in the Farmer's Register, it has occurred to me, that it may not be improper to add my experience on the subject. I have for many years been satisfied that it is very unprofitable management. Though I practise it, with a view of supplying a sufficient quantity of fodder for my stock, I am constrained to acknowledge, that it is nothing but sheer negligence in providing other means of supplying fodder or hay, that induces me to do so from year to year. I will give you as nearly as my memory serves, the result of an experiment made by me when a lad, under the special direction of my father, who made a record of this experiment, as well as of a great many others, which would now probably be very useful, but which were all lost or destroyed by his servants during the latter declining years of his life. I cannot pretend to remember accurately the quantities of corn and fodder produced in the experiment, which was made more than thirty years ago, and is nearly as follows:

Thirty-nine rows of corn, sixty hills long, five and a half feet each way, and two stalks in each hill, were planted on tolerably good land, and cultivated as common, till it was thought proper time for pulling fodder. I then carefully pulled the fodder off of each first and second row alternately through the piece, leaving each third row to stand with all the fodder and tops on, till perfectly dry. When it was thought the proper time, I cut the tops off each first row, so that there were 13 rows of corn with fodder pulled and tops cut, 13 rows with fodder pulled to one blade above the ear and tops left to dry, and 13 rows from which neither fodder nor tops were taken at all. Each parcel of fodder was cured and kept apart from each other, and the blades were stripped from the tops of each first row, at the time of cutting the tops; and when cured, put with the fodder that had been pulled from the same rows.—Each parcel of corn was gathered, and when perfectly dry, shelled and weighed separately, and the fodder from the 13 first rows and that from the 13 second rows, each weighed separately. The quantity of corn raised from the 13 first rows, from which the fodder was pulled and the tops cut, was considerably less than that raised on the 13 second rows, from which the fodder was pulled and the tops left standing till dry, and still much less than the corn raised on the 13 third rows, on which both fodder and tops were left till perfectly dry. The quantity of corn raised on the 13 third rows, weighed a few ounces more than the corn and fodder both together, which was raised on the 13 second rows from which the fodder only was pulled, and tops left standing—and weighed a few ounces less than the corn and fodder, with the addition of the fodder stripped from the tops raised on the 13 first rows, from which the fodder was pulled and the tops cut. I remember the conclusions to which my father and myself came were, that the whole produce in each case, was so nearly of equal value, as to make scarcely an object worth consideration, even in a large crop, and that the whole labor of gathering and curing the fodder and tops (a considerable item in a farmer's account, by the by) was entirely lost.

Another experiment which I made about the same time, of which I have not as perfect recollection, was to strip the fodder from a number of rows of corn, quite from bottom to top, taking off all the blades at the usual time of pulling blade fodder, from below the ears. My recollection of this experiment is, that this last is the most unprofitable management of any I have mentioned in this communication—not being practically acquainted with any other modes of managing the corn crop with a view to saving the fodder.

I will suggest to your readers, the propriety of extending the experiment so as to test the relative profit of cutting down the corn, fodder and all, just before the fodder would die and dry up on the stalks; or rather at the time of pulling fodder.—Those who have secured corn and fodder in this way, generally approve the practice, but I have not seen that any person has made a fair experiment by actual weight and measure, which is the only way to avoid delusion.

It now occurs to me that I once made an experiment on wheat that bears some analogy to this practice. In a large field two adjoining squares were accurately laid off to the same size, where the wheat on both squares was supposed to be equally good. One square was reaped with a sickle, about three days before ripe, the time is not certainly remembered, when the grain had just attained the dough state, and dried and secured separately. The other square was left to get full ripe, when it was reaped as the first in the morning whilst moist with dew, to avoid shattering—I do not think a single head was lost in either square. When both were perfectly dry, they were each very carefully threshed, cleaned and weighed separately. The parcel which had stood to get fully ripe, weighed so much more as to perfectly astonish me. The result was stated to my father, who said he had tried the same experiment several times with wheat and once with barley, and it had always turned out much in the same way—but in carefully picking up all the heads of wheat that were left upon the ground in an adjoining square, which had been well mown and got in as common, we suppose that rather more good wheat would generally be housed by cutting when fully in the dough state, than by suffering it to get fully ripe, when it would inevitably shatter and scatter more than in the dough state.

CHARLES WOODSON.

Prince Edward, 24th Jan., 1835.

[The foregoing experiment on corn and fodder, is precisely of the kind that is wanting to decide this and many other controverted points in agricultural practice—and which, when sufficiently varied and repeated, will serve better to remove doubts and establish valuable truths, than an hundred times as much space occupied by general reasoning, and deductions from untried and therefore doubtful premises. This experiment is only deficient in one respect—the long time which has passed since the facts were observed and recorded. But though this lapse of time lessens the force of the result, by permitting doubts to rise of something having been forgotten, such are in some measure counteracted by the internal evidence of accurate and particular observation, which the manner of Mr. Woodson's statement carries with them. But even if this experiment had been recently made, and was free from every objection on the score of accuracy, it would need confirmation (as in all other cases) by other experiments made for the same object, and by different persons and under various circumstances. It is to be hoped, that even if none of our agricultural societies will promote the institutions of regular courses of experiments on doubtful points, that enough individual farmers will make experiments on the effects and cost of gathering fodder during the next season, as to settle this most important question. If the absolute loss of labor in this usual and long prevailing practice of Virginia is as great as we have supposed, and even half as great as may be inferred from the result of the experiment above, the amount of the whole annual loss and tax so paid, if saved, would be enough to defray the cost of constructing all the canals and railways now in progress in the state, and the expenses of the General Assembly to boot.

The experiment on reaping wheat green, or in the dough state, though less accurately observed, and reported in still more general terms, agrees in the main with our own opinions, founded on the practice of reaping green for about twelve years. We have never made any one accurate experiment on this matter—and should not have supposed the difference to be near so great as is stated in general terms above; but the conclusion reached and acted upon, was the same as that which seems to be supported by Mr. Woodson's experiment, viz. that however great may be the loss from the shrinkage of the grain when reaped green, there is much greater loss, on the average, from waste by permitting wheat to stand until ripe.]—*Farmer's Register.*

List of Payments

For the Farmer from June 5, to July 1, 1835.

For the Fifth Volume.

Ingersoll & Crossman.	Wm. Stewart.
J. Fox.	Wm. Carpenter, Jr.
John Bryant.	Ludlow E. Lapham.
James O. Morse.	Amasa Salisbury.
Charles Goundrey.	Hiram Bostwick.
B. H. Williams.	Col. Vanrensselaer.
James Carter.	Ira Gregory.
A. W. Langdon.	Wm. Whiting.
Amos Lee.	J. Miller.
Thaddeus Chapin.	Alexander Bower.
Walter Hubbell.	Richard Pomeroy.
Oliver Phelps.	Dennis Barns.
B. Billings.	E. S. Bartlett.
W. L. Ferris.	Samuel E. Spencer.
W. G. Post.	Isaac M'Cagg.
Wm. Trimble.	Geo. Chittenden.
Union Ag. Society, Kentucky.	Theophilus Pegler.

From July, 1835, to July, 1836.

Wm. Robinson.	Alvah Curtis.
Joel Thorn.	Elijah P. Quinby.

For 4th and 5th Volumes.

James Houghteling.	James Reed.
W. D. Norton.	T. A. Leland.
J. M. Doolittle.	Aaron Younglove.
John R. Barns.	Silas Walker, Jr.
B. Cheever.	D. C. Bates.

First half vol. 5.

H. Roberts.	G. Wells.
Ansel Frost.	Charles Webster.

Noyes Darrow.

(Remainder next week.)

Natural History.

The Pitcher Plant.—Few plants, if we consider the structure of its foliage, are more interesting than the Pitcher plant, of southern India. It is found in Ceylon, Java, and other islands in the Indian Archipelago. It has been transplanted into several gardens in England, where it attains to great perfection. Its stem is eighteen or twenty feet. It branches out over the wires prepared to support it; and bears numerous leaves, in the form of a pitcher, and which look more like art than the production of nature. The leaf, including the stalk, is two feet long. The pitcher is rather an appendage to the leaf, than the leaf itself. It is hollowed out like an elongated pitcher; and is eight or nine inches long. It is attenuated at its base, where it is curved or arched, and then suddenly turns upward. In its young state, it is covered by a lid or operculum. After a time, the lip opens, and the mouth of the pitcher is exposed to view. The color is pale green, but often tinged or spotted with red and purple.

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Papyrus.—This is a plant of Egypt, and among the most remarkable of those noticed by the ancients. It most abounded on the banks of the Nile. Pliny and other naturalists of early times, speak of it by the above name; in Syria, it was called *babin*; whence the modern term, paper. It is from the delicate and white pith which fills the stems of this plant, that the ancients prepared their paper. The main stem is ten or twelve feet high, and is surrounded at the base by a few short leaves, bearing numerous flower stalks with inconspicuous blossoms. The process was to remove the epidermis, and to cut the spongy part into thin slices, and steep them in the waters of the Nile; after which there were two layers, alternately; several layers being required to make one sheet of paper. It was then dried, and subjected to a strong pressure; and finally smoothed with a piece of polished ivory. On this paper, or cloth, most ancient manuscripts were inscribed; especially those lately found in the excavations at Herculaneum and Pompeii, in Italy.

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Nutmeg.—The true *Nutmeg*, as well as the clove, is a native of the Moluccas, or Spice Islands, but principally confined to the group, called the Islands of Banda, under the equator, where it bears blossoms and fruit at all seasons of the year. In their native country, the trees are almost always loaded with blossoms and fruit; and the latter is gathered at three different periods of the year; viz. in July, November and April. The mace is there in July, when the nut is most abundant; in November it is superior, but in April, both the nutmeg and the mace are in the greatest perfection, the season then being the driest.—The outer pulpy coat is removed, and afterwards the mace; which when fresh, is of a crimson color, and covers the whole nut. The nuts are then placed over a slow fire, when the dark shell next the mace, and which coats the seed becomes brittle; and the seeds, or nutmegs of commerce, drop out. They are then soaked in sea-water, and impregnated with lime; a process which answers the double purpose of securing the fruit from the attacks of insects, and of destroying the vegetating property. It also prevents the volatility of the aroma. The mace is simply dried in the sun, and then sprinkled with salt water, when it is fit for exportation.

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Camphor.—This tree or plant is a species of the Lamee, and is found in the East Indies; but the leaves do not exhibit the three strong parallel nerves of the Cinnamon and Cassia. The whole tree has the strong odor of Camphor, and this substance is obtained by the distillation of the roots and small branches. The article is often employed as medicine, as a cordial and stimulant. The camphor of Sumatra is found concreted in the clefts of the bark of other camphor trees. It is also found in China and Japan, but the former is more highly valued. The camphor of China and Japan, is more frequently imported into Europe, than that of Sumatra.

Miscellanies.

Rich and Poor.—When I compare together different classes as existing at this moment in the civilized world, I cannot think the difference between the rich and the poor, in regard to mere physical suffering, so great as is sometimes imagined. That some of the indigent among us die of scanty food, is undoubtedly true; but vastly more in this community die from eating too much than from eating too little; vastly more from excess than starvation. So as to clothing—many shiver from want of defences against the cold; but there is vastly more suffering among the rich from absurd and criminal modes of dress, which fashion has sanctioned, than among the poor from deficiency of raiment. Our daughters are oftener brought to the grave by their rich attire, than our beggars from their nakedness. So the poor are often over-worked, but they suffer less than many among the rich who have no work to do, no interesting object to fill up life, to satisfy the infinite cravings of man for action. According to our present modes of education, how many of our daughters are victims of *ennui*, a misery unknown to the poor, and more intolerable than the weariness of excessive toil. The idle young man, spending the day in exhibiting his person in the street, ought not to excite the envy of the overtasked poor, and this cumberer of the ground is found exclusively among the rich.—*Dr. Channing.*

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A Mother's Tears.—There is a touching sweetness in a mother's tears, when they fall upon the face of her dying babe, which no eye can behold without imbibing its influence. Upon such hallowed ground, the foot of profanity dares not encroach. Infidelity itself is silent and forbears its scoffings. And here woman displays not her weakness, but her strength—it is that strength of attachment which can never, to its fullest intensity, realize. It is perennial, dependent on no climate, no changes; but alike in storm or sunshine, it knows no shadow of turning. A father, when he sees his child going down to the dark valley, will weep when the shadow of death has fully come over him, and as the last parting knell falls on his ears, may say, "I will go down to the grave for my son mourning;" but the hurry of business draws him away—the tear is wiped from his eye—and if, when he returns to his fireside, the vacancy in the family circle reminds him of his loss the succeeding day blunts the poignancy of his grief, until at length it finds no permnanent seat in his breast. Not so with her who has borne and nourished the tender blossom. It lives in the heart where it was first entwined in the dreaming hours of night. She sees its playful mirth or hears its plaintive cries. "She seeks it in the morning," and "goes to the grave to weep there."

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Hints to Young Farmers.—Consider your calling the most elevated and the most important; but never be above it, nor be afraid of the frock and the apron.

Put off no business which ought and can be done to-day, until to-morrow.

As soon as the spring opens and the frost is out of the ground, put your fences in order.

Plant no more ground than you can well manure and cultivate to advantage.

Never hire a man to do a piece of work which you can do yourself.

Keep no more stock than you can keep in good order, and that of the best kind.

Never run in debt without a reasonable probability of paying at the time agreed.

Never carry your notes in your pocket-book, as the desk or trunk is a more appropriate place.

Keep them on file and in order, ready to be found when wanted.

Never buy any thing at an auction because the article is going cheap, unless you have a use for it.

Keep a place for your tools, and your tools in order.

Instead of spending a rainy day at the dram shop, as many do to their ruin, repair whatever wants mending—post your books.

Should you be fond of the chase, or the sport with the hook, indulge occasionally, but never to the injury of more important concerns.

By driving your busines before you, and not permitting your busiuess to drive you, you will have opportunities to indulge in innocent diversions.

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Flowers—Says the author of Atherton, "Are not flowers the stars of earth, and are not stars the flowers of heaven? Flowers are the teachers of gentle thoughts, promoters of kindly emotions. One cannot look closely to the structure of a flower without loving it. They are emblems and manifestations of God's love to the creation, and they are the means and ministrations of man's love to his fellow creatures; for they first awaken in the mind a sense of the beautiful and good; but on its undivided beauty, and on the glorious intensity of its full strength, man cannot gaze; he can comprehend it best when prismatically separated and dispersed in the many colored beauty of flowers; and thus he reads the elements of beauty, the alphabet of visible gracefulness. The very inutility of flowers is their excellence and beauty; for, having a delightfulness in their very form and color, they lead us to thoughts of generosity and moral beauty, detached from and superior to all selfishness; so that they are pretty lessons in Nature's book of instruction, teaching man that he liveth not by bread, or for bread alone, but that he hath another than an animal life."—*Amulet.*

Palm Leaf Hats.

The braiding of these hats is an important and increasing business, which has sprung up within ten years past, and which is doubly valuable in consideration of its moral influence, inasmuch as it offers a remunerating *domestic* employment for thousands of our domestic country women. Few are aware of the extent to which the manufacture is carried on in the country towns. In Ashby in Middlesex county, according to the Yeoman's Gazette, 50,000 hats are braided annually, for which the braiders (more than half which are girls and small boys) receive between six and seven thousand dollars. This is not a high compensation for the amount of labor bestowed; but the advantage is that this labor may be bestrewed at odd times, and by those who might otherwise remain unemployed. In Petersham and Barre, in Worcester county, great numbers have been made. We have been told that a single commission house in New York, sold hats made in that county in one year to the amount of ninety thousand dollars. The Southern market was for a great while the principal outlet; the sales have fluctuated considerably, and the prices have been gradually coming down. Recently, large quantities were shipped to France, and sold readily and with profit, at one quarter of the rate at which the English had been in the habit of selling an article not as handsome, though rather more substantial. The French Government have somewhat checked the trade, by imposing a duty of one franc (about twenty cents) on the finer kinds of these hats; the consequence is, that the common ones are now principally sought for export.

In this county the business has been prosecuted to some extent. A dealer in this town, who commenced a few weeks since, has already a hundred and fifty braiders employed. In Shelburne and in other towns we believe that a considerable number are made.—*Franklin Mercury.*

A Valuable Farm For Sale.

THE valuable Farm owned and occupied by Elias Beach, 4 miles west from the city and situated directly on the Erie Canal, containing 240 acres of good wheat and grass soil, well watered, with good house, barns, out houses, &c. Five thousand dollars will be required in cash, and the balance may remain on bond and mortgage for a term of years. Title indisputable. The price per acre may be learned on inquiring of JAMES H. WATTS, at No. 3 Exchange-street, Rochester, and the owner will at all times be ready to give further particulars on the premises. ap 18-tf